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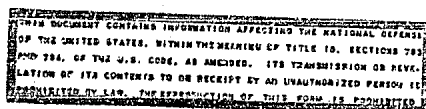
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CZECHOSLOVAK REGULATIONS FOR SPRING AGRICULTURAL WORK

On 12 February 1952, the government of the Czechoslovak Republic adopted a resolution concerning the execution of spring agricultural work.

The economic plan calls for increasing agricultural production by 15 percent and crop purchases by 17 percent over 1951.

Obtaining an excellent crop of grains, potatoes, sugar beets, and industrial plant products requires the proper execution of spring agricultural work. The main task now is careful preparation for spring work by the JZD (Unified Agricultural Cooperatives), and by machine and tractor stations.

In the interest of adequate preparation and careful execution of spring work, and of creating the best conditions for obtaining a large crop this year, the government requests the Ministry of Agriculture, the national committees, the chairman and agronomists of the JZD, and the directors and agronomists on farms and in machine and tractor stations to execute the following basic agro-technical measures during spring work:

1. Provision of Water, Weed Control, and Preparation of Soil
 - a. Retain melted snow by a series of dams, ditches, etc., so that as much water as possible will remain on fields and meadows.
 - b. Drag and harrow all sections of the fields within the shortest possible time, depending on how quickly they dry out in the spring. If weeds appear, a cultivator is to be used in the field.
 - c. Distribute synthetic fertilizers and work them into the soil before cultivation, harrow the fields immediately, and then proceed with sowing.
 - d. Prepare and fertilize the soil with special care in plots designed for seed-raising and for propagating plants on a contract basis.

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2. Grains

a. Early in the spring, before the field work is begun, add fertilizer to weak winter crops and then harrow the winter wheat and rye plants, preferably across the furrows. The winter crops heaved by frost should first be rolled, and then harrowed when they are better rooted.

b. Sow the spring grains concurrently with the preparation of the soil using "narrow-row" cross sowing, as much as possible and use only quality seeds which have been chemically treated.

c. Keep all fields intended for later sowing in a loose and weed-free condition.

d. Destroy weeds in spring crops by rolling, harrowing, weeding, and using weed killers after sowing and during the growing season, particularly on plots designated for seed raising and for propagating plants. Also strengthen spring grain by adding fertilizer to the leaf.

e. While rye is in full bloom, carry out at least three or four additional pollinations to prevent unfilled heads and to increase yields. Sunflowers, corn, and seedlings of alfalfa should also be further pollinated.

3. Potatoes

a. Plant potatoes in well-warmed soil, and in parts of the field plant four potatoes per hill; this will render higher yields, make possible a greater mechanization of work, and save manual labor.

b. Pregerminate early potatoes as extensively as possible, and leave uncut the tubers designated for planting in seed plots, or for propagating plants on a contract basis.

c. To improve quality of seed potatoes and increase yield on propagating plots of early potato varieties, summer planting is recommended. The ground should be kept in a fluffy, weed-free state until time for planting. Fertilizer should be added once or twice during growth.

d. The potato plants should be cultivated at least three times; this has a decisive influence on higher yields.

e. Combat the American beetle during the entire growing period.

4. Sugar Beets

a. Sow in well-prepared soil, which has reached a temperature of 6 to 8 degrees centigrade, to a depth of 3 to 4 centimeters.

b. Weed sugar beets, especially after rows are made and before every hoeing and thinning.

c. Thin to a distance of 18-24 centimeters in order to leave 100,000 to 120,000 plants per hectare, as soon as the first pair of true leaves appears, and carry out the thinning in the shortest possible time (7 to 8 days).

d. Carry out the second hoeing within 2 to 3 weeks after thinning.

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e. Add synthetic fertilizers to the leaf after thinning, both before and after the second hoeing. Use liquid manure in the furrows in a solution of one part to three-five parts of water, applied when weeding.

5. Vegetables, Grapes, and Fruit Trees

- a. Prepare in time to permit full use of watering equipment.
- b. Carry out the sowing of all vegetables by means of treated seeds, bearing in mind the fulfillment of the time plan for the harvest.
- c. Manure the soil well for vegetables, till and hoe the plants at least two or three times, and weed and protect them from insects.
- d. Finish pruning and spraying the trees in orchards before the growing season, and spray both before and after blooming.
- e. Spray in vineyards before budding, then finish the cultivating and the planned setting of new plants. Carry out cultivation on time; prune the vines, loosen the soil during the growing season; destroy weeds; and spray again.

6. Flax

- a. Spread, according to schedule, the flax stems remaining from the 1951 harvest, from which the seeds have been removed, in meadows and pastures for retting.
- b. Sow the flax in clean, weed-free, well-prepared soil, preferably after clover or potatoes, and simultaneously with the sowing of spring grains.
- c. Make wider use of the narrow-row and cross-sowing methods. Devote great care to weeding, particularly before the plants come up, and to protection against insects.

7. Hops

- a. Treat hops with manure, or if natural fertilizer is insufficient, with synthetic fertilizer.
- b. Thin, hoe, and cut immediately after the soil dries out. Fill empty spaces with additional plants.
- c. Fasten the wires one week after cutting, at the latest.
- d. Finish construction for resetting 1951 hop plants by 15 April 1952.
- e. Have the soil prepared for new planting and carry out the planting by 15 April 1952 at the latest.
- f. Carry out consistently the destruction of pests and diseases by spraying with powders and liquids.

8. Oil Plants

- a. Add fertilizer to the leaf of winter rape, and replace dead plants by sowing spring oil plants, i. e., spring rape, mustard, camelina, and sun-flowers.

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b. Sow poppy seed in fertilized and weed-free soil by the end of March, and the other oil plants by 30 April. Finish weeding, thinning, fertilization, and hoeing of poppies on time, while simultaneously guarding them against pests.

c. Weed and add fertilizer to the leaf of other oil plants, hoe them, and combat pests.

9. Tobacco and Peppers

To secure higher production and improve the quality of tobacco, it is necessary to:

a. Grow seedlings by the beginning of May.

b. Plant well-developed seedlings after the spring frosts, hoe carefully, and fight effectively against pests.

10. Meadows

a. Rid meadows of all unevenness and molehills by harrowing and dragging in the spring.

b. Clean available drainage and irrigating equipment; find and drain, by means of open trenches or stone drains, springs which flood the meadows unnecessarily.

c. Make full use of liquid manure for fertilizing meadows, complementing the fall fertilization by the use of phosphate fertilizers.

d. Distribute compost on meadows early in the spring and harrow them well.

11. Provision of Fodder

The creation of a domestic fodder reserve is an important prerequisite for further development of animal breeding.

It is necessary, therefore, by using agrotechnical principles, by further introducing the grass-field system, by making use of all the meadows and pastures in the frontier areas, by expanding the seeding of intermediate crops, particularly of stubble mixtures, by growing appropriate silage plants, and improving meadows and pastures, to produce a sufficient supply of green fodder from domestic sources this year. In addition, hay, silage, and feed root crops must be produced. Grass fields should not be harrowed in the spring, but weeded with horse-drawn rakes and firmed with heavy rollers. Sparsely planted plots should be sowed and manured. Plantings of pure clover should be cared for similarly.

Additional instructions follow:

a. Harrow fields of pure alfalfa. More harrowing is to be done in proportion of age of planting.

b. Cut alfalfa hay before the alfalfa blooms; harvest clover hay when the red clover begins to bloom. The additional sowing of new grass fields is to be done on time, and the seed must be sown shallowly but carefully.

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c. Raise the yields per hectare of corn for grain by using hybrid seed and by careful cultivation. In smaller plots use hill seeding, which will facilitate mechanical cultivation.

d. Assure a sufficient and constant production of green fodder by creating permanent green belts, consisting of spring mixtures. These feeds would replace the winter mixtures, in addition of corn and sunflowers. Sow these fodders at time-intervals so that there will be a constant supply of fresh fodder. Supplement the basic feed by planting fodder carrots as a bi-culture with poppies.

e. Sow all the idle soil or plant various types of fodder materials.

f. Begin with the construction of simple silage pits, using local building material.

The government directs, in addition to the foregoing, that:

The okras national committees shall, on the basis of agrotechnical suggestions from the Ministry of Agriculture, immediately work out agrotechnical rules for the okras by fixing agrotechnical time-periods, discuss them with agricultural experts of JZD, STS (Machine and Tractor Stations), and CSSS (State Farms), with JZD chairmen and with STS directors, and supervise their fulfillment. In obec with lower-type JZD and in obac without JZD, the okras national committees shall provide for the discussion of agrotechnical rules for the okras with local agronomists.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the kraj and okras national committees, with the help of professional agricultural groups from agricultural schools, research institutes, and stations, shall ensure the founding of Michurin groups and test fields in the course of spring work in all higher-type JZD and shall help the cooperatives to introduce Soviet agrotechnology.

Farm Machinery

In the interest of timely preparation of field equipment, plows, harrows, drags, cultivators, seeders, and all other machines for spring work, the government requests that the Ministry of Agriculture and national committees:

a. Assure the completion of repair work on machines and equipment, especially in the JZD, at least 10 days before the beginning of spring work. The okras national committees shall help the JZD to provide for more complicated repairs in specialized repair shops.

b. Organize, with the participation of okras national committee workers and of chairmen of local national committees, a mutual checkup on the preparation of equipment and machinery among individual cooperatives according to previously prepared plan.

Delivery and Cleaning of Seed and Plants

All varieties and types of selected and regular seeds shall be cleaned, sorted, and distributed to the individual economic cooperatives, obec, and JZD, on time, before sowing and planting begin.

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The government directs that:

a. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Internal Trade shall ensure that all the sugar beet seed has been cleaned and that the clover seed, grass seed, and spring crop seed be cleaned by 29 February, and flaxseed by 15 March.

b. The Ministry of Internal Trade shall carry out the distribution of seed, according to plan, to individual economic cooperatives, obec, and JZD by 15 March, and shall assure the purchase of counterdeliveries of grains and potatoes.

c. Directors of economic cooperatives shall sign contracts immediately for the delivery of high-quality seed and plants with the JZD and obec and shall ensure receipt of seed and plants before the commencement of spring work.

Seed Production

Since an increase in seed production for consumption by the JZD, and the contractual production of localized types for other growers, are of prime importance, the government directs that:

a. The Ministry of Agriculture and the National Committees shall ensure in all higher-type JZD the creation of seed plots on suitable land, the use of high-quality seed or plants, and, particularly, good care.

b. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Internal Trade shall provide, through the economic cooperatives, for the delivery by 15 March of high-quality seed, and by 15 April of plants for these seed plots.

c. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Internal Trade shall deliver on time, through the economic cooperatives, high-quality seed and plants of localized types for contractual propagation areas.

Synthetic Fertilizers

Nationalized industry provides Czechoslovak agriculture with twice as much synthetic fertilizer as before the war.

The government directs that:

a. The Ministry of Internal Trade shall execute, by the end of February, the distribution of winter supplies of synthetic fertilizers according to the needs of individual okres, and the directors of economic cooperatives shall ensure an immediate signing of contracts with the JZD and with other obec for the purchase and delivery of synthetic fertilizer.

b. Okres and local national committees shall ensure the timely purchase of synthetic fertilizers by the JZD and operators of small or medium-sized farms from the economic cooperatives. In particular they shall see that synthetic fertilizers are also bought and fully utilized by the village rich.

c. Okres national committees shall ensure in higher-type JZD that stable manure is used on common land, that liquid manure is used on cultivated crops, that more extensive composting is begun, and that local materials, such as peat, silt, wood ashes, etc., are used. In particularly selected JZD the okres national committees are instructed to provide for the production and utilization of granulated fertilizers.

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Cultivation of Unused Arable Land

Local national committees shall see that all provisions are made for the tilling of idle arable land. They shall ascertain the actual extent of arable land, make sure that arable land converted to other purposes for speculative reasons is returned to its original purpose, and ensure, by all possible means, that idle land is tilled or returned to cultivation.

Higher-Type JZD

Good preparation of spring work in higher types of JZD requires primarily a timely outlining and thorough discussion of the spring work plan with all cooperative members, the creation of permanent working groups, the signing of yearly contracts with the machine and tractor stations, and designation of basic standards of quality for individual operations.

In the course of spring work it is essential to enroll more farmers in JZD, to discuss the organized execution of spring work with farmers at informal gatherings and persuade them to join in the common cultivation work and become convinced members of the cooperative.

Therefore, the government instructs the Ministry of Agriculture and the national committees to ensure the execution of the following measures in higher-type JZD:

- a. That all JZD immediately, with the help of obec workers, lay out spring work plans so that they can be completed at least ten days before the beginning of spring work. These plans shall also include the cooperatives' own agrotechnical provisions.
- b. That the cooperatives establish goals for working groups, brigades, and individuals, that they finish discussing the spring work plan with all the members of the cooperative by the beginning of the work, so that every one will be acquainted not only with the goals which will have to be reached, but also with the provisions by which the goals will be ensured.
- c. That the JZD assign plots to the working groups, the care of which will be theirs for the whole year, that they be entrusted with the necessary equipment and animals, and that they be directed by the best, most experienced organizers.
- d. That the JZD sign a yearly contract with the machine and tractor stations for the execution of field work, on a yield basis if possible, and that the quality and periods of work be stated.
- e. That all obec having JZD of higher types organize informal gatherings with the farmers in order to recruit them for fast, group execution of spring work.

Obec Without JZD and Obec With Lower-Type JZD

The only thing which will help lower-type cooperatives and small and medium-sized farm operators to fulfill and surpass the production goals is a change to joint soil cultivation. Agricultural workers must concentrate on recruiting the operators of small and medium-sized farms for joint execution of spring work and for the introduction of joint sowing, and convince them of the value of this method.

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The government recommends that for the purpose of cooperative execution of spring work, commissions be elected of small or medium-sized farm operators in the obec. These commissions, together with the agricultural referent, will be responsible for spring work.

Local national committees and components of the National Front shall not allow the village rich to find their way into these commissions and use them in their own interests.

Local national committees shall see that all production aids, particularly animals and machines, be fully utilized to complete the spring work. They shall also see that the village rich use only properly cleaned and treated seeds, that they obtain and use synthetic fertilizers on time, that they unconditionally sow the area planned. These provisions shall be carried out in all obecs.

Machine and Tractor Stations

The timely and careful preparation of the machine and tractor stations for spring work will be of decisive influence in the prompt commencement and fast execution of spring work. These stations are directed:

1. To supervise repair of tractors and agricultural machines for spring work and to ensure the completion of all repairs by 1 March 1952.
2. To prepare sufficient agronomically acceptable equipment for preparing the soil and sowing in spring, bearing in mind the maximum utilization of tractor draft power.
3. To sign contracts with the JZD immediately so that the contract will become an integral part of the yearly production plan of the cooperative.
4. To discuss at meetings of the machine and tractor station council by 10 March the details of their plan, and to ensure plan fulfillment by agreements and the distribution of machines to individual tractor units.
5. Supervision of the machine and tractor stations preparedness for spring work will be carried out by the representatives of the people's administration in collaboration with workers of the machine and tractor stations between 1 and 15 March.

State Farms

The government instructs the Ministry of Agriculture, the heads of kraj administrations, directors of farms, and economic directors to carry out the following provisions in cooperation with the national committees and the ROH (Revolutionary Trade-Union Movement):

1. By the end of February at the latest, to discuss the spring work plan with all workers; to form working groups, provide them with a plot of land, draft animals, and tools essential for the fulfillment of production tasks in such a way that the leaders of these groups will be responsible for timely and high-quality execution of the work.
2. To finish repairs on all machines and tools for spring work by the end of January according to a previously laid out plan, to check regularly on its fulfillment, and to remove hindrances.

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3. To ensure regular technical maintenance of machines in cooperation with leaders of machine crews.
 4. To carry out by 15 March the proper distribution to machine centers of all mechanical equipment among the kraj and also within the kraj, bearing in mind the production tasks in individual regions. To secure, in cooperation with the leaders of the machine centers, sufficient motor fuel and spare parts before the commencement of spring work.
 5. To prepare, by the end of February, the necessary amount of high-quality seed and plants for sowing and planting. To make sure that at least 25 percent of all the spring crops and flax is cross sown or sown by the narrow-row system. To ensure that sufficient vernalized seed and seed potatoes are prepared for summer planting, according to the plans of the individual farms.
 6. To ensure the retting of all stored flax from which the seeds have been removed, before the commencement of spring work, in cooperation with the national committees. To award "6 L" coupons as bonuses for every square quintal of flax retted.
 7. To ensure a sufficient number of steady workers for the state farms, in cooperation with the national committees and the ROH, by mobilizing local labor. To conclude agreements with sponsor factories for aid at peak periods.
 8. To inspect individual farms for preparedness 10 days before the beginning of spring work, with the help of national committee representatives, and to check on the fulfillment of individual regulations concerning preparation and spring work.
 9. Kraj and okres national committees shall supervise and in every way help workers on the state farms to ensure preparation and good spring work.
- Kraj, okres, and obec national committees are responsible for the execution of agricultural policy and for the condition of agricultural production in kraj, okres, and obec.

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